

TODAY

It's Sunday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2021. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **2018**, a gunman identified as a former student opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, killing 17 people in the nation's deadliest school shooting since the attack in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years earlier.

In **1778**, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Stars and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France.

In **1876**, inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray applied separately for patents related to the telephone. The U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled Bell the rightful inventor.

In **1912**, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union as President William Howard Taft signed a proclamation.

In **1920**, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maud Wood Park.

In **1929**, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

In **1945**, during World War II, British and Canadian forces reached the Rhine River in Germany.

In **1967**, Aretha Franklin recorded her cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" at Atlantic Records in New York.

In **1979**, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In **1984**, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient when the surgery was performed at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; she lived until November 1990.

In **1989**, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blasphemous.

In **2013**, American Airlines and US Airways announced an \$11 billion merger that turned American into the world's biggest airline.

In **2019**, William Barr was sworn in for his second stint as the nation's attorney general; he succeeded Jeff Sessions, who'd been pushed out of office by President Donald Trump after Trump denounced Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigation.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama unveiled a \$3.7 trillion budget plan that would freeze or reduce some safety-net programs for the nation's poor but turn aside Republican demands for more drastic cuts to shrink the government to where it was before he took office. The TV game show "Jeopardy!" began airing the first of three episodes pitting human players Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings against an IBM computer named "Watson." Watson ended up winning with a cumulative total of \$77,147 versus \$24,000 for Jennings and \$21,600 for Rutter.

Five years ago: Pope Francis condemned the drug trade's "dealers of death" and urged Mexicans to shun the devil's lust for money as he led a huge open-air Mass for more than 300,000 people in the poverty-stricken Mexico City suburb of Ecatepec.

One year ago: A Chinese health official said more than 1,700 medical workers had been infected by the coronavirus, and six had died. Egypt confirmed its first case of the new virus, which had infected more than 64,000 people globally.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Andrew Prine is 85. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is 79. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 78. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 77. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 73. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 73. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (Beausoleil) is 70. Actor Ken Wahl is 64. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 62. Actor Meg Tilly is 61. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Kelly is 61. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 60. Actor Zach Galligan is 57. Actor Valente Rodriguez is 57. Former tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 54. Actor Simon Pegg is 51. Rock singer Rob Thomas is 49. Former NFL quarterback Drew Bledsoe is 49. Actor Danai Gurira is 43. Actor Tiffany Thornton is 35. Actor Brett Dier is 31. Actor Freddie Highmore is 29.

—Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

PACIFIC NORTHWEST | ICE STORM

Outages could last through weekend

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS AND REBECCA BOONE
The Associated Press

LAKE OSWEGO — A winter storm blanketed the Pacific Northwest with ice and snow on Saturday, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without power and disrupting travel across the region.

Freezing rain left roads, power lines and trees coated in ice in the Portland region, and by Saturday morning more than 270,000 people were without power.

The outages could extend throughout the weekend for some, said Elizabeth Lattanner, a spokeswoman for PGE, one of the major electricity providers in the region.

"In storms like these, restoration takes time given all of the challenges our crews face in getting to restoration sites and repairing those outages," Lattanner said.

"We have more than 600 PGE and contract personnel responding to the storm — it's all hands on deck."

Many ice-laden trees snapped under the weight, falling on power lines and causing some transformers to blow out in showers of blue and orange sparks. By noon on Saturday, more than 1,200 PGE power lines were down, Lattanner said.

The ice and snowfall caused treacherous driving conditions, forcing Oregon transportation



Samuel Braun, 6, let his dad, Dave, take the brunt of the frozen powder while sledding in the snowfall Friday in Walla Walla, Washington. Both came up smiling.



An aerial view of the Morrison Bridge and downtown Portland is seen Friday during a snowstorm.

officials to close Interstate 84 in the Columbia River Gorge, and the regional transit agency

TriMet suspended all bus and train service in the region. TriMet spokesperson Tia

York asked people to avoid all travel unless it's an emergency.

"It is too dangerous out there," York wrote in a prepared statement.

Police in Salem also warned residents in Marion and Polk counties to watch for downed power lines and falling tree limbs, and the Oregon State Police said fallen trees blocked several roads across the region.

Some Washington state residents were also socked in by the weather, with snow falling throughout the Seattle region on Saturday morning and freezing rain falling along the coast in Grays Harbor County. The city of Seattle activated its Emergency Operations Center Saturday morning to coordi-

nate the city's winter storm response.

Heavy snowfall also led to dangerous driving conditions in parts of Eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho, with Malheur County and Boise, Idaho, expected to get as much as 6 inches of snow by Saturday afternoon.

The National Weather Service said all three states should brace for another surge of winter moisture to hit the Northwest Sunday night, potentially leading to more heavy snowfall through Monday.

The "unsettled winter conditions" would likely continue throughout the week, the National Weather Service said Saturday morning.

Western Washington was expected to get an additional 3 to 6 inches of snow on Saturday, with another 2 inches possible on Sunday and Monday. Rain falling on accumulated snow raised the possibility of urban flooding happening Sunday night or Monday in some areas, according to the National Weather Service.

The heavy snow made for dangerous avalanche conditions in the many areas across the Olympics and Cascades mountain ranges, with large avalanches possible.

Officials with the Payette Avalanche Center in west-central Idaho also warned of increasing avalanche risk in the days ahead.

Bill would expand cropland firefighting options in state

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Cropland owners in Oregon would be eligible to join rangeland fire protection associations under a bill that seeks to improve their access to equipment and training.

Areas that produce dryland wheat are prone to wildfire — as seen in the 2018 Substation Fire, which burned 78,000 acres in Wasco and Sherman counties — but currently cannot be included in rangeland fire associations.

"During harvest time, ripe grain crops are a tinder box. A lightning strike, a spark of any kind or chaff falling on a hot engine can cause a crop fire," said Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, during a recent legislative hearing.

Hansell has introduced legislation that would allow rangeland fire protection associations to be organized on "land used for cultivating crops" in addition to rangeland and undeveloped areas. Supporters



Courtesy of Molly Belshe/via Capital Press
The Substation Fire burns through standing wheat in Sherman County.

say Senate Bill 590 will enhance firefighting resources in rural communities.

"Wildfire does not adhere to boundaries, it does not stop at fence lines or changes in land ownership, or rangeland or cropland," said Amanda Hoey, CEO of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

By forming or joining an association, farmers could better coordinate with state agencies, such as the Oregon Depart-


ment of Forestry on firefighting and acquire surplus firefighting equipment from the federal government, Hoey said.

Roger Beyer, a lobbyist for the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, said the financial impacts on the state's Department of Forestry must be considered as part of the discussion about SB 590.

While the bill's benefits outweigh any of these concerns, the legislation should provide added funding to the forestry department, Beyer said.

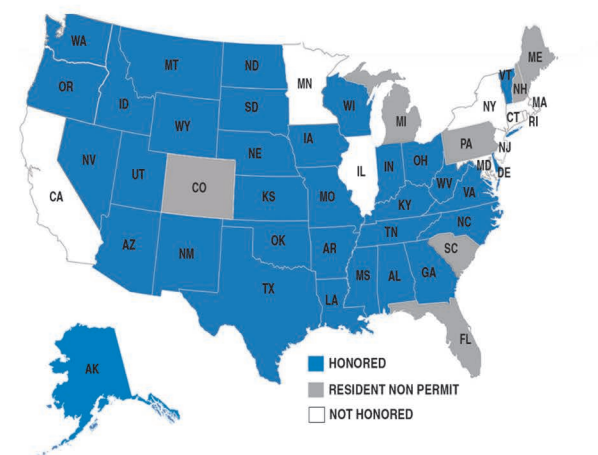
Without adequate funding, the heavier workload could detract from the agency's existing firefighting duties, he said.

The department currently has three full-time employees who support 23 rangeland fire protection associations that cover about 15 million acres. In the past, the agency estimated that expanding associations to include cropland would require an additional three employees at a cost of more than \$700,000 per biennium.



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Oregon Only: \$45.00

Shaun Curtain 360-921-2071

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